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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of Illinois were saddened to learn of the death of Minor Myers Jr., president of Illinois Wesleyan University, on July 22, 2003; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Myers was born in Akron, Ohio and earned a bachelor's degree in 1964 from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota; he went on to Princeton University, where he was awarded the master's of arts (1967) and doctor of philosophy (1972) degrees in politics and political philosophy; he launched his academic career in 1968 as an instructor in government at Connecticut College, where he achieved the rank of full professor and department chair of government; in 1984, he was named provost and dean of faculty at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York, where he served for five years before becoming Illinois Wesleyan's 17th president in 1989; and

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WHEREAS, During his 14-year tenure, the University increased its student enrollment, selectivity, and academic profile; raised \$137 million in a capital campaign; and completed \$115 million of renovation and construction, including The Ames Library, the Center for Natural Science, the Hansen Student Center, and the Shirk Center for Athletics and Recreation; and

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WHEREAS, In addition to the impressive physical improvements to the University, Mr. Myers led key initiatives that changed Illinois Wesleyan in other important ways; for example, the University faculty established an annual student research conference; created semester-long programs in London and Madrid; added major or minor programs in American Studies, Anthropology, Biochemistry, Cognitive Science, Women's Studies, Environmental Studies, Greek and Roman

1 Studies, International Business, Russian, and Japanese  
2 Studies; and altered the calendar to develop May Term, a  
3 month-long semester during which innovative courses and  
4 off-campus study are emphasized; and

5 WHEREAS, During his tenure, the University was granted a  
6 Phi Beta Kappa chapter, and developed exchange programs with  
7 Pembroke College of Oxford University and with Obirin and  
8 Keio universities in Tokyo; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Myers combined learning and discovery; he  
10 emphasized the importance of a faculty of excellent teachers  
11 with enthusiasm for research; he was a consummate scholar and  
12 a teacher whose varied personal interests included playing  
13 the piano and harpsichord, discussing music history, and  
14 collecting books and meteorites; his particular fascination  
15 with the 18th century led to his expertise in furniture,  
16 musical instruments, publishing, and higher education during  
17 the American colonial period; he was also well versed in the  
18 history and culture of Revolutionary France; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Myers was the author or co-author of eight  
20 books, including "The Insignia of the Society of the  
21 Cincinnati" (1998) and "A Documentary History of American  
22 Interiors from the Colonial Era to 1915" (1980); and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Myers passing will be deeply felt by many,  
24 especially his wife, Ellen; and his two sons, Minor III and  
25 Joffre; therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL  
27 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the death of  
28 Minor Myers, Jr. along with all who knew and loved him and  
29 extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends; and  
30 be it further

31 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the family of Minor Myers, Jr. as an expression  
2 of our deepest sympathy.